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PREFACE

The faculty of the Francis W. Parker School has undertaken to publish a YEAR BOOK. It is not intended to take the place of the school catalogue. Its function is entirely different, since it will not attempt to describe the work as a whole, but only such parts of it as seem to the faculty worthy of consideration as educational data. Each issue will emphasize one or more of the basic principles in education. In this first book the discussion of theory will be minimized, and almost all the space given to detailed descriptions of experiments which have been approved by the faculty. These examples are not, however, in any case considered to be perfect or model school activities. Many of them are necessarily incomplete. Whenever it seems useful, the struggles and mistakes involved in a piece of work are described quite as fully as the successful parts of it, since often it is in this way only that an experiment can be measured and judged at its true value.

It is fitting that the first book should strike the keynote upon which the work of the school is based; that it should demonstrate clearly the belief of the school that education is essentially a *social process*. Therefore, all the examples given in this issue describe activities vitalized by impelling *social motives*. The best organized and most effective social stimulus in the school is the Morning Exercise. It gives life and significance to much of the classroom work. It creates social unity and purpose. It would seem, therefore, that the first Year Book, if it is to emphasize especially the social aspects of the school life, should deal with the morning exercise. But it was decided by the faculty that if this feature of the school were treated adequately it would fill the entire space of the book, and it seemed better to make the first number more varied in character. The second number, however, will probably describe and illustrate typical morning exercises and such allied topics as school plays, festivals, and special day exercises. But whatever the contents of the book may be, there will be a sincere attempt on the part of the faculty to picture as vividly as possible groups of children engaged in an everyday process of growing in social usefulness.